

Hingtgen, Robert J

From: Fogg, Mindy
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 4:44 PM
To: De La Rosa, Michael; Wilson, Adam; Kohatsu, Sachiko; Gutierrez, Gabriel; Sprecco, Edward
Cc: Jones, Megan; Wardlaw, Mark; Gretler, Darren M; Real, Sami; Gungle, Ashley; Hingtgen, Robert J; Beddow, Donna; Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Update on Soitec Solar
Attachments: 4116_001.pdf

Our site visit in Boulevard yesterday was very valuable. Donna took us to a half dozen or so homes and vantage points. Besides seeing first-hand what the sites look like from different perspectives, it also gave us the opportunity to meet the neighbors and hear their stories or concerns.

The CPG meeting was much larger than the meeting we attended in January (we estimate around 70 people were there last night). It was quite contentious from the start with a lot of emotion from the Boulevard residents. Our project team, along with the CPG members, remained calm while answering questions or just listening. The large majority of concerns were related to groundwater impacts. Jim Bennett listened to their concerns, provided clarification regarding the analysis in the EIR, and encouraged people to submit their comments to us.

The CPG voted at the end on a number of actions (attached) with unanimous approval. They were very appreciative of our attendance and sent us a "Thank You" email late last night. Please feel free to call or email me if you would like more detail or have any questions.

Mindy Fogg
858-694-3831

From: Fogg, Mindy
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 2:44 PM
To: Wilson, Adam; Kohatsu, Sachiko; Gutierrez, Gabriel; Sprecco, Edward; De La Rosa, Michael
Cc: Jones, Megan; Wardlaw, Mark; Gretler, Darren M; Real, Sami; Gungle, Ashley; Hingtgen, Robert J; Beddow, Donna
Subject: Update on Soitec Solar

Hi Again,

I just wanted to provide a quick update on the public review process for the Soitec Solar EIR. Our staff attended the Boulevard Community Planning Group (CPG) meeting on the initial day of public review (1/2/14). At that time, we gave an overview of the document, answered questions, and provided handouts describing where to find the information and how to comment. Since then, we have been responding to questions on a daily basis via phone or email.

Tomorrow is the February CPG Meeting. Our PDS project team is meeting with Donna Tisdale in the early afternoon -- she is going to show us around Boulevard and point out a number of viewsheds that are potentially affected by the project. That evening we will be joined by the EIR consultant team to attend the CPG meeting. Per the CPG's request, we have a 30-minute powerpoint presentation summarizing the impacts, mitigation, and alternatives covered in the EIR. After the presentation, staff and the consultant team will be available to answer questions and/or hear feedback from the group.

I will email you all again on Friday to summarize the field trip and meeting. Thanks!

Mindy Fogg
858-694-3831

From: Fogg, Mindy
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2013 2:30 PM
To: Wilson, Adam; Kohatsu, Sachiko; Gutierrez, Gabriel; Sprecco, Edward; De La Rosa, Michael
Cc: Jones, Megan; Wardlaw, Mark; Gretler, Darren M; Real, Sami
Subject: Release of EIR for Soitec Solar Projects

Hi All,

I just wanted to give you a heads up that the Draft EIR for the Soitec Solar projects in Boulevard is being circulated for public review and comment this Thursday, January 2nd. It is a 45-day review that concludes on February 17th.

The project proposes the development of four solar energy projects: Tierra del Sol, Rugged Solar, LanWest, and LanEast (see location map attached). Collectively the projects include approximately 1,473 acres of Concentrated Photovoltaic (CPV) trackers that would generate approximately 168.5 megawatts of electricity. The Tierra del Sol and Rugged Solar sites are evaluated at a project-specific level of CEQA analysis, and LanEast and LanWest are evaluated at a program level. The projects include applications for two Major Use Permits (Tierra del Sol and Rugged), and a Rezone and Disestablishment of an Agricultural Preserve (Tierra del Sol).

In addition, the Tierra del Sol and Rugged Solar components have received approval under the Jobs and Economic Improvement Act of 2011 (AB 900) and have been determined by the Governor, with concurrence from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, to meet the criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 21178 et seq. Under this regulation, we have to make the administrative record (to date) available to the public along with the Draft EIR. Staff has been diligently uploading this record on the web (over 1,000 links so far).

PDS staff will be attending the Boulevard CPG meeting Thursday night (1/2/14) to introduce the EIR and provide some maps and handouts. We will be returning to the CPG again on February 6th with the EIR consultants to answer any questions about the documents.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or receive any inquiries on this. Thank you – and Happy New Year!

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DRAFT PROPOSED ACTION/MOTION FOR SOITEC SOLAR DRAFT PEIR (DPEIR):

- Re-endorse our previous actions to oppose 80 MW Rugged Solar (6-14-12), 60 MW Tierra Del Sol Solar (8-2-12) and 6.5 MW LanWest Solar (5-3-12) (attached)
- Oppose the Soitec Solar Draft Programmatic EIR, the 22MW LanEast and newly proposed Los Robles alternative site(s) for reasons that include but are not limited to the following:
 - Lack of need for the project(s) & experimental nature and misrepresentations of Soitec's dual tracking CPV, with only 14MW currently operational globally
 - Significant problems evident at Soitec's 1.5 MW Newberry Solar 1 site in Newberry Springs near Barstow
 - SDG&E has approved contracts (CPUC RESOLUTION E-4606) to sell the energy from these yet-to-be-built projects to other entities starting January 1, 2014—showing lack of need and raising questions
 - SDG&E's CPUC approved amendment to Soitec Solar Power Purchase Agreement (AL 2552-E) to move Boulevard projects to an already approved site in Imperial Valley that has survived previous litigation
 - Court ruling of unconstitutionality of AB900 judicial fast-tracking and failure of County and Soitec to provide notice to Planning Group and public of Soitec's AB900 application and public comment period
 - Insufficient information for Programmatic EIR and objection to County's first time use of PEIR
 - Inaccurate project description that downplays the rugged beauty of Boulevard, adverse impacts, proximity to homes and sensitive resources, and exaggerates the negative
 - Inordinate number of errors and omissions—sloppy work or purposely manipulated?
 - LanWest should be removed from DPEIR due to Soitec's withdrawal of MUP application and lack of information and sensitive location
 - LanEast should be removed from the DPEIR due to lack of MUP application, lack of information, and sensitive location with wetlands and adjacent Walker Creek Ecological Reserve
 - Los Robles Solar alternatives should be removed for lack of MUP application and adequate information
 - Lack of faith in Dudek's abilities due to multiple conflicts of interest, lack of neutrality, apparent bias, and recent failure to accurately analyze the groundwater / hydrological interconnections and adverse impacts to off-site wells at the Madera Golf Club in Poway.
 - Dudek's error became evident when curtailment of irrigation wells was mandated due to significant drop in water levels within a short 60 day period after pumping was resumed—as Dr. Ponce predicted.
 - Significant impacts do include adverse impacts to groundwater and increased fire risk
 - Lack of availability of fire services and County commitment for career staffing at Boulevard Fire
- Support new and viable alternative moving all Soitec projects to pre-approved Imperial Valley sites per AL2552-E
- Oppose all Boulevard Community Plan Amendments, proposed waivers, and overriding considerations due to increased risk, reduced, and unequal protections under the law, and violation of constitutional rights
- Underground all lines including collector lines—to reduce fire hazards and impediments to firefighting
- Endorse and incorporate by reference the report by Dr. V.M. Ponce entitled "Impacts of Soitec Solar Projects on Boulevard and Surrounding Communities", dated November 15, 2013
- Request a re-circulated non-programmatic Draft EIR; removal of LanWest, LanEast and Los Robles Solar
- If Rugged Solar and Tierra Del Sol Solar projects are approved, they must be the most reduced alternatives
- Authorize the Chair to submit formal detailed comments for the Group, by the DPEIR by the Feb 17th deadline, that include issues and concerns raised and any new information that becomes available.

Action taken: M/S: _____ Vote: _____

